

I claim:

1. Wastewater treatment apparatus comprising at least one pre-tank and a reactor tank between which a transfer connection is provided to enable wastewater to be transferred from the said at least one pre-tank to the reactor tank, and in which the reactor tank is provided with a biomass and aeration equipment to enable the wastewater to be treated in the reactor tank, wherein the capacity of the said at least one pre-tank enables it to retain the storm flow for a sufficient period of time and wherein the said at least one pre-tank is provided with a storm overflow, whereby even in storm conditions the reactor tank remains effective and settled solids from the storm flow in the said at least one pre-tank are transferred at intervals to the reactor tank, and in the event of persistence of the storm conditions, excess wastewater is released via the storm overflow without interrupting operation of the reactor tank.
2. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the said at least one pre-tank is provided with a stirrer.
3. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein aeration equipment is provided in the said at least one pre-tank.
4. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 2, wherein aeration equipment is provided in the said at least one pre-tank.
5. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 2,

wherein the said at least one pre-tank is provided with a level sensor to switch-off the stirrer once the level of the wastewater in that tank rises above a predetermined level.

5 6. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the said at least one pre-tank is provided with a level sensor to switch-off the aeration equipment once the level of the wastewater in that tank rises above a predetermined level.

10 7. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the said at least one pre-tank is provided with a level sensor to switch-off the stirrer and the aeration equipment once the level of the wastewater in that tank rises above a predetermined level.

15 8. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the position at which the transfer connection opens into the said at least one pre-tank is provided with a cover to reduce the turbulence of fluid within that tank, so that it is not unduly unsettled in storm
20 conditions, when transfer takes place.

9. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the cover comprises a plate.

10. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storm overflow comprises a weir.

25 11. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim 1, wherein there are two pre-tanks connected together via the transfer connection.

12. Wastewater treatment apparatus according to claim

11, wherein the two pre-tanks are provided with respective inlets, each with its own shut-off valve, as well as two outlets to the transfer connection also with respective shut-off valves.

- 5 13. A method of treating wastewater comprising feeding wastewater to at least one pre-tank from which it is fed at intervals to a reactor tank containing a biomass and aeration equipment to treat the wastewater, wherein the said at least one pre-tank has a capacity to enable it to
- 10 retain storm flow for a sufficient period of time whilst the reactor tank remains effective and settled solids in the said at least one pre-tank are transferred at intervals to the reactor tank and wherein in the event of persistence of storm conditions, excess wastewater is
- 15 released via a storm overflow provided in the said at least one pre-tank without interrupting operation of the reactor tank.